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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC TO CONDUCT STATEWIDE GRAIN MEETINGS ON AUGUST 22
FOR WAREHOUSEMEN AND DEALERS**

LINCOLN – The first event of a program to educate the grain industry and producers about changes in state laws and rules will be conducted by the Nebraska Public Service Commission on August 22.

The three-hour meeting will link 10 sites on a video-conference to allow participants to exchange questions and responses. Commission Chairman Jerry Vap of McCook, who will chair the conference which begins at 3 p.m. Central Time and 2 p.m. Mountain Time. Parties wishing to participate by telephone can obtain the call-in number and pass code by calling the Commission.

Vap said, “This initial educational effort is directed towards grain warehouse owners and operators as well as grain dealers to explain their responsibilities and duties regarding changes in state law in the 2004 Legislature and before.”

The starting time for the conference was set to allow sufficient time for members of the grain industry to drive to a video conference site following the close of the day’s markets. Vap said a letter from the Commission to the grain industry strongly recommends that companies holding a Nebraska or federal warehouse license and a state dealer license be represented because their businesses are being affected.

Among the topics will be the creation of a program that provides coverage of direct delivery shipments as well as record keeping provisions. Failure to meet the requirements of state law and rule changes could result in complaints and fines from the Commission, Vap said.

The Commission chairman said future educational efforts will also be directed at producers. “We will be developing educational materials in coordination with the grain industry to put into the hands of producers as the 2005 harvest season approaches.”

Meeting locations:

Central Time Zone (3-6 p.m.)

Hastings – Public Library, Second Floor, 517 West Fourth Street.

Kearney – University of Nebraska at Kearney, Communications Center Building, Room 250, 1918 University Drive.

Lincoln – Nebraska Public Service Commission Library, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street.

McCook – McMillen Hall, Room 208, 1205 East Third Street.

Norfolk – Faith Regional Health Services, West Campus, Norfolk Room, 2700 West Norfolk Avenue.

North Platte – West Central District Health Department, Board Room, 111 North Dewey.

Mountain Time Zone (2-5 p.m.)

Alliance – Box Butte General Hospital, 2102 Box Butte Avenue, Hemingford Room.

Chadron – Chadron Community Hospital, 821 Morehead Street.

Scottsbluff – Regional West Medical Center (Hospital), 4021 Avenue B, Monument Room.

Sidney – Memorial Health Center (Hospital), Ray Cruz Conference Room, 645 Osage Street.

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